

FISCAL NOTE

SB 245 - HB 323

February 21, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Revises statute relative to eligibility criteria concerning payment of compensation to a claimant injured as a passenger in a vehicle where the driver was operating the vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Bill allows payment if passenger had no knowledge that the operator was legally intoxicated.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000/Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

Estimate assumes:

- An increase in benefit payments from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Of the claims paid in fiscal year 2000, the Criminal Injuries Fund paid compensation on 50 DUI claims and denied 49 (22 for willing passenger). For those paid, the average award was approximately \$4,000.
- Current law bars recovery on a claim involving a willing passenger injured while riding in the vehicle of a driver who was legally intoxicated.
- Additional claims will be filed and paid as a result of the bill. The amount of increase cannot be determined but is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director